

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07 CPR-02 DRC-01

H-03 /082 W

----- 119831

R 220356Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3230

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AS

SUBJECT: MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION ON AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS

REF: A) STATE 106028; B) STATE 105688

1. COUNTING IN AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS IS STILL PROCEEDING , WITH BALANCE BETWEEN LABOR GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES STILL VERY CLOSE. WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES WHITLAM GOVERNMENT WILL BE RETURNED, ITS MAJORITY IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE VERY SMALL AND IT WILL PROBABLY NOT CONTROL SENATE. FINAL OUTCOME IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (WHOSE COMPOSITION DETERMINES WHICH PARTY CONTROLS GOVERNMENT) EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AROUND MAY 30, WHEN POSTAL VOTES (I.E., ABSENTEE BALLOTS) ARE COUNTED AND PREFERENCES DISTRIBUTED. SENATE RESULTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AROUND JUNE 10-15, DEPENDING ON WHETHER THERE ARE CHALLENGES. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAS NOT CLAIMED VICTORY, AND OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDED HAS NOT YET CONCEDED DEFEAT.

2. POINT AT WHICH IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DISPATCH PERSONAL CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT AND ACTING SECRETARY WILL BE CONCESSION OF DEFEAT BY WHITLAM OR SNEDDEN, WHICH MAY NOT BE MADE UNTIL MAY 30. SUGGEST DEPT ENSURE MESSAGES SENT THROUGH STATE CHANNELS TO ENSURE NO MISTAKES MADE DUE TO MISLEADING PRESS REPORTS.

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3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TELLS US THEY ARE WITH-
HOLDING MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS UNTIL ONE LEADER
OR OTHER CONCEDES DEFEAT. DFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TOLD
EMBOFF MAY 22 HE HAD SEEN NO CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
AND SAID BEST COURSE WAS TO WAIT FOR CONCESSION STATE-
MENT.

4. WE ASSUME SENATOR MANSFIELD, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES,
WOULD WISH EMBASSY TO DELAY DELIVERY OF HIS MESSAGE
TO WHITLAM. WE WILL HOLD IT UNTIL WHITLAM VICTORY IS
OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER03067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740127-0256
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740528/aaaaayhi.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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